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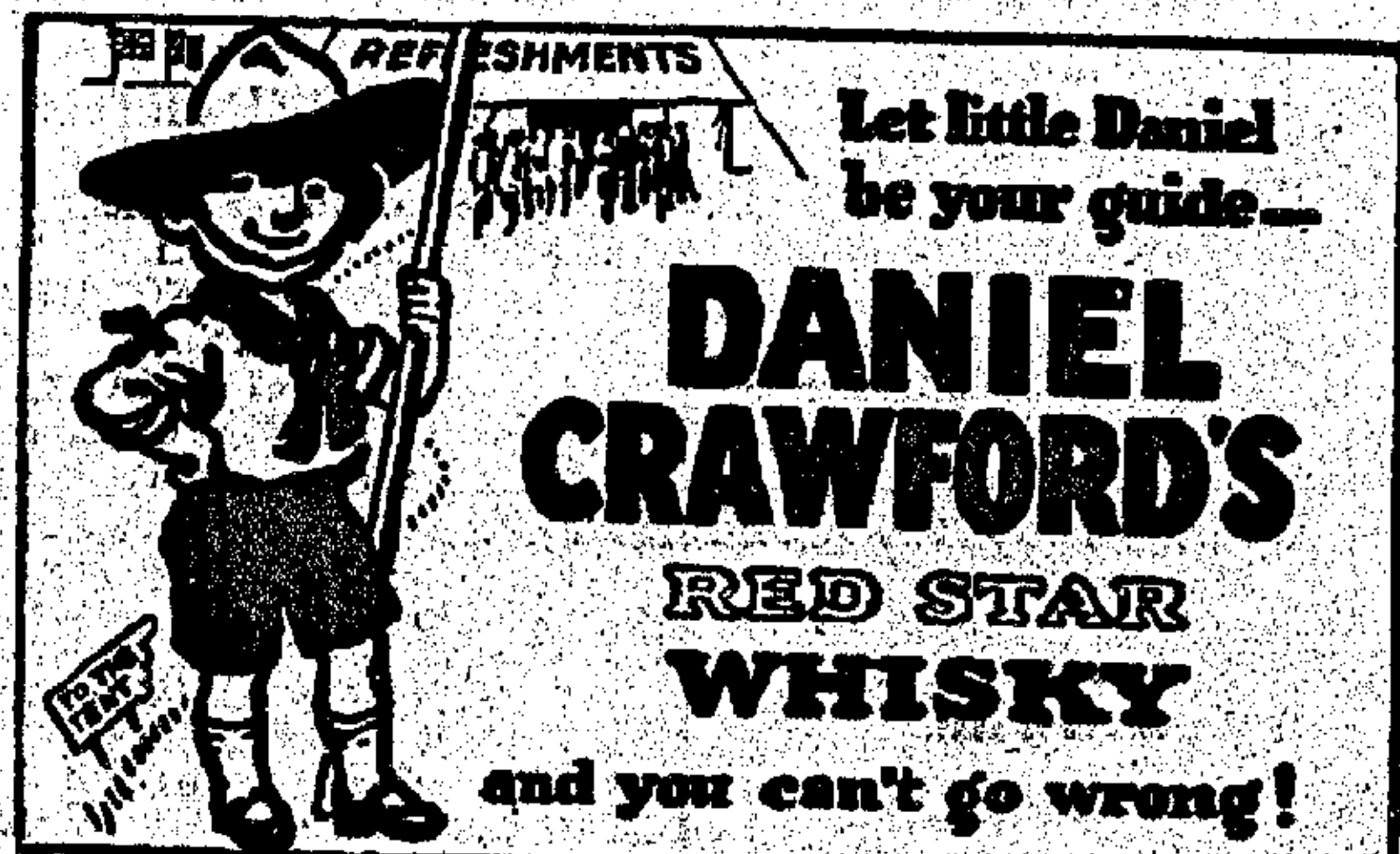
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[98-8]

LIQUID-FIRE AND POISON GAS.

[BY ARNOLD FREEMAN.]

Though it is now a long time since our German enemies introduced liquid-fire into this world-war, it is quite surprising how little is known in England, and how erroneous ideas are held, of this weapon of *Kultur*. It is not very long ago since I saw in a newspaper an account of an interview a correspondent had had with a *pilot* on the Somme front, in which the French Tommy described how from a vantage-point he had watched the Germans during an attack pour liquid-fire into a trench and shrivel up the defenders. Had that correspondent known the least thing about *Flammenwerfer*, he would have realised at once that the *pilot* was 'pulling his leg,' and I and a good many others would have missed a laugh. As a matter of fact, a trench is the safest place (excepting a dug-out) a man can be in if there is any so-called liquid-fire about.

I have played liquid-fire over a trench full of Tommies, and the demonstration over, they have emerged smiling, unscathed, without even the smell of burning about them. I have been in a trench when the flame of the *Werfer* has been roaring overhead, and have felt a pleasant warmth; that is all.

For this reason, the flame about which so much (and so little) has been heard is from twenty to thirty feet long. The earlier *Werfer* throws the shorter distance—and it cannot be directed downwards; the extremity of the flame is never so near the ground as its beginning for the surrounding air being heated by the flame, it rises, as hot-air is bound to do, and the cooler air below, moving upward to take its place, causes the flame to rise. This when the flame of a *Werfer* is directed upon a trench it passes harmlessly over the top, provided that the trench is not so badly constructed as to have the parapet higher than the parapet; and provided, also, that the men have kept their heads and are lying down in the bottom of the trench. Once only have I known a man in a trench to be singed by the flame. He was a staff-officer, and perhaps considered it beneath his dignity to lie flat. He merely bent down. His dignity cost him a new tunic.

The only real value of this instrument of German *Kultur* is its moral effect. Certainly its appearance is fearsome enough. Just imagine the orange-coloured flame, thirty feet long and five or six feet in diameter, darting out towards one; the dense masses of black smoke given off by it; the great roar of its burning, and one can realise what its effect upon green troops might be. Consequently demonstrations are constantly being given at our training-centres in France, and also in the field, by means of captured flame-throwers. Whole companies of various battalions are placed in trenches, and the flames played over them, in order that the soldiers may realise how empty a bluster the *Flammenwerfer* is, and that they may have confidence in the protection the trench gives them, and so derive this instrument of its sole asset—its moral effect.

The liquid-fire apparatus is quite a simple affair. Outwardly, all one sees is a metal cylinder, which is fastened by means of straps to the back of the soldier whose duty it is to operate it, and a piece of metal hose-pipe attached to the cylinder. This pipe ends in a nozzle, which has attached to it a piece of wick, lighted before the attack begins. The cylinder, or container, is divided into two parts. The upper half is filled with compressed hydrogen, the lower half with a mixture of burning and lubricating oils. The turning of a tap releases the hydrogen, which forces the oil in a fine spray through the pipe, the spray being ignited as it passes out of the nozzle by the piece of burning wick.

The *Flammenwerfer* operators have no enviable job, for the moment they are seen advancing they are the target for every rifle within reach. I remember once (it was before we knew how innocuous this weapon was), when the Germans were coming over to pay us a call, a big Irishman saw a German in a trench, and he was pumping out rapid fire as he spoke. 'Gloria be to God!' he added as the man went down. 'Sure, it's the flames of hell he was after bringing to you!' A patrol went out afterwards to secure the apparatus, and they found that the man had been riddled with bullets from head to heel, and that the container he carried resembled a sieve.

Poison-gas when first introduced was certainly a more effective weapon than the *Flammenwerfer*, whether one considers its moral effect or the number of men put out of action by its use. British troops were not prepared for it; so that when the first death-cloud was released by the Boches, our men had no weapon with which to fight it. They had to choose between sticking to their posts and being poisoned, or running away and letting in the enemy. To their eternal honour, they chose to stay. Gasping, choking, retching, they kept on firing until, in some cases, they could hold the rifle no longer; in others, until relief came.

Steps were soon taken by the powers that be to meet the gas menace, for at the outset a very real menace it was. First, a respirator or pad to cover mouth and nostrils was introduced. It did not prove very effective. Many of my own regiment—the Duke's—were on a terrible day in May 1916, and were gassed in snits of them. Next a helmet with windows or eyepieces, as introduced, but it was found that the men were often broken in the folding of the helmet, and so the present helmet (of which every man possesses two), fitted with strong, flanged, glass eyepieces, was provided.

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(Continued at foot of next column.)

RECRUITING SCANDAL.

CAPTAIN WILSON'S DESIRE TO SERVE ABROAD.

At Liverpool Assizes recently, Captain H. W. Wilson, formerly chief substitution officer, and John Hughes, owner of 50 grocers' shops, were found guilty of conspiring to defeat the Military Service Acts. Hughes was also found guilty of corruptly giving Wilson 2575 and Wilson of accepting the money.

The Solicitor-General (Sir Gordon Howart) said that on May 26th last Hughes paid to Captain Wilson £400, Captain Wilson having it in his power to confer illegitimate advantages upon Hughes. In July Hughes paid Wilson £200 and on subsequent days £150 and £125. Counsel described how, after arrangements had been made for Hughes' men to be dealt with under the chamber of commerce scheme, Hughes, assisted by Wilson, went outside that scheme and wrongly secured exemptions for certain of his workpeople.

It was alleged that twenty-five employees of Hughes obtained cards of exemption for certain periods upon the instructions of Wilson. In the cases of sixteen the men lived in areas other than that with which Wilson had to do.

Addressing Mr. Justice Bailhache, Wilson said he desired to express publicly his great sorrow for all the things he had failed in regarding his duty, and for the things he had done wrongly. That day he lost his commission, after holding it for 17 years, but though no longer an officer he remained a soldier, and he intended to apply to the Army Council for permission to serve abroad. He hoped his lordship would endorse his application. He threw himself on the mercy of the court and would serve what sentence might be imposed upon him when he returned from abroad.

Mr. Justice Bailhache said it was difficult for him to express the grief he felt at seeing a man of Wilson's undoubted abilities in such a position. His offence was a serious one, and the sentence would be one year and nine months' imprisonment.

Hughes said he was absolutely innocent, but the judge remarked that his case in some respects was the worst of them all, and in addition to 12 months' imprisonment, ordered him to pay £200 towards the costs.

Mendall Fishel, Francis S. Barnett, and Ernest E. Barnett, who had previously been found guilty, were sentenced: Fishel and Ernest Barnett to 9 months each, and Ernest Barnett to 12 months, his lordship holding that the last-named was one of the prime movers in the bribery offences.

The present helmet is a perfect defence against gas. Wearing it, a man may walk about in the thickest gas-cloud unharmed (I have done so), though the 'formaldehyde' generated inside the helmet does cause rather an unpleasant feeling in the throat. It is quite harmless, but it has caused many a man to imagine he was gassed when really he died nothing. I could tell a few laughable stories to illustrate this.

The men being in possession of helmets which protect them from the physical effects of a gas-cloud, it is necessary to instil in them confidence in their helmets, in order to rob the gas-cloud of its moral effect. For this purpose anti-gas schools were started—divisional ones, to which relays of men were sent from the various battalions in the division; and army-schools for the training of non-commissioned officers. In these schools lectures dealing with anti-gas methods are given each day, in the morning session. In the afternoon the men (wearing their gas-helmets) are placed in a specially built room in which are fixed a number of gas-cylinders. The gas is turned on; the room is filled with a thick fog. So the men learn that a helmet gives them adequate protection; and after that for them, a gas-cloud has no terrors. The men have confidence in their helmets, and consequently there is no fear of their *moral* being shaken by such an attack.

As the gas-schools the men are also taught the use of the Vermorel Sprayer—an instrument not unlike a *Flammenwerfer* in appearance—which after an attack sprays trenches and dug-outs with a solution that kills the gas which (being heavier than air) is left in all hollows. Poison-gas is conveyed to the trenches in cylinders about forty inches in length, by seven in diameter. They are fixed—dug in the front wall of the trench—in batteries of five, with a space of about twenty yards between them. The five cylinders are connected with one pipe, which runs through the sandbags and projects slightly over the slope of the trench. As each cylinder is emptied the next is turned on, the battery being exhausted in about fifteen minutes. The gas issuing from the cylinders forms a fan-shaped cloud, which joins up with the clouds sent out by the batteries on either side, so that one long, unbroken cloud is formed. It is often mixed with smoke, in order to form a more effective cover from view, and thus facilitate an attack. For instance, a gas-cloud may be discharged over a mile front, and it may only be intended to attack at one point. The enemy being screened by a gas-and-smoke cloud, the defenders cannot tell at which point the attack is going to be launched, until it is too late to concentrate at that point.

To sum up, gas when first used was effective both for its effect upon *moral*, and for the losses it caused. To-day, in consequence of the admirable training of the troops in anti-gas methods, it is in effect negligible. If any man is gas-poisoned, it is pretty safe to conclude that it is caused by carelessness or some other fault of the man himself. (Hammer's Journal.)

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SOME QUEER THINGS IN THE BATTLES. SOLDIERS' STORIES.

Some queer things happened in Angres. There was a soldier of ours, an Irishman, who ate his breakfast in Angres, but he was in jovial company. He came across a German at the entrance and fought with him, but in a friendly way. After knocking each other about they came to an understanding, and sat down together in a dug-out to a meal of German sausage, cheese, black bread, and French wine. They found a great deal of human nature in common, and were seen coming out later arm-in-arm, and in this way the Irishman brought back his prisoner.

An Irish colonel told this and another queer tale of an Irishman in the outskirts of Lens. The colonel saw him after the battle of the Bois-en-Hache, which was a terrible affair, and a great feat of arms in the mud and snow, bringing back a German horse under machine-gun fire and shrapnel. He was guiding this poor, lean beast over frightful ground, round the edge of monstrous shell craters, through broken strands of barbed wire, and across trenches and parapets.

'What are you doing with that poor brute?' asked the commanding officer. 'Sure, sir,' said the Irishman, 'I'm bringing the horse back for Father Malone to ride.'

The horse was in the last stages of starvation, and the padre weighs 19 stones, according to the popular estimate of the men, who adore him. It is a tribute, anyhow, to the affection of the men for this Irish padre—a laughing giant of a man—who is always out in No Man's Land and, when there are any of his lads out there, going as far as the German barbed wire to give the last rites to dying men.

Our men have had to endure weather so abominable that they have fought for days wet to the skin, lying out at night frozen stiff, and struggling after the enemy up to the knees in mud. So it was in this little battle of the Bois-en-Hache, which broke the enemy's last hope of a counter-attack against Vimy Ridge.

Through that blinding blizzard of snow, English and Irish troops attacked this hill above the river Souchez, and had to cross through a quagmire, so that numbers of them stuck up to the waist and could go neither forward nor backward, while they were swept by machine-gun and rifle fire from that other hill called the Pimple, to their right, which was not yet taken by the Canadians.

I saw one man come back wounded over that abominable ground under rifle fire which spat bullets about him. He stumbled into shell-holes and crawled out again. Just as he reached the trench where I stood he fell dead across the parapet. Nearly all our men were hit in the head and body, none in the legs. That was because they were knee-deep in mud.

Our men came back from this fighting like figures of clay, and so stiff at the joints that they can hardly walk, and with voices gone so that they speak in whispers. And yet they have not lost heart or spirit, and are concerned about those who seem worse than themselves, not waiting about their own troubles, but after a sleep and a wash refreshed and ready to fight again if the call comes.

THE SOMME MIXTURE. As some of the battalions in support were passing up to the trenches they exchanged greetings with the gunners, who laughingly pointed to the guns that were wheel to wheel. 'Boys,' they said, 'rely on us. The Somme mixture this time is extra special.'

Two nights before the great attack an English-speaking Hun shouted out to the Tommy on outpost duty the name of his regiment, the number of his battalion, and the number of the battalion that had been relieved. Apparently he had been able to catch traces of the conversation in the British trench, for by means of saps the two lines had approached to within a few feet of one another.

Much of the success of the British was due to the careful rehearsal beforehand. Day after day, behind the line, the part to be played in the actual battle was practised on land whose configuration and cut trenches corresponded to the positions to be attacked.

A Canadian who fought at Vimy told an interviewer that he had never enjoyed himself so much as during the battle and that his chief desire was to get well quick and be sent back. 'Taking the Germans,' he added euphemistically, 'was just like knocking daisies off a stem with a stick.'

EMOTIONS IN BATTLE. Asked to analyse his emotions in battle a scholarly Tommy said: 'The barrage gives you a sense of security. You feel that you are quite safe so long as you do not run into it. Your only thought is to reach your objective, and your surroundings are obliterated from your mind. When you kill a German you try to stop you, and a second and a third one you just give him a mechanical look to see if he is dead and then pass on. The usual reverence of death is lost on you. If you argue at all it is in this strain: "His life or mine," and the instinct of self-preservation prevails above all else. It is not callousness, it is just war.'

During the fighting the British shellfire has been so violent that unharmed prisoners when brought in have remained dazed for hours. When they did speak it was to make wild rambling statements. They admitted that the hope of winning on land was no longer entertained, but said they had heard 'much good' about the U-boats.

'The Germans are not fighting so well as they used to,' said a Dundee man. 'They're more ready on the "Kamerad" name and never gave us a chance to get into them with the bayonet. It's all very well for them to hang on to their machine guns to the last second, then throw up their hands. It's kind of maddening.'

(Continued at foot of next column.)

ENEMY MANGUVRES FOR PEACE.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES.

THE PRESS MUZZLED.

(FROM 'THE TIMES' HUNGARIAN CORRESPONDENT.)

Since April 15th last the Hungarian newspapers have been strictly forbidden to refer to the shortage of food, and not a line has appeared in them on the subject. The prohibition coincided with the appearance in the Government organ, the *Uzsonna*, of an article by Count Tisza suggesting that the next few months would be most critical and would demand still greater sacrifices of the people, who should prepare themselves to accept the coming hardships with steadfastness. These are the last words that have appeared in the Press on the subject of the prevalent famine. The newspapers were permitted to issue this warning, but since then they have performed remained silent. The Austrian and German newspapers appear to have followed suit, for no longer do they come out with dismal lamentations as they used to do on the subject of the food scarcity. As a consequence of this policy of concealment and of the despatch of thousands of prisoners of war in Allied countries, no opinion in England and France as to food conditions in Germany, some disposition is shown by writers for the Press of countries with which Germany is at war to believe that the Central Empires are not nearly so badly off for food as they have been represented to be by correspondents in neutral countries. The fact is, however, that a desperate effort is being made both in Germany and Austria to keep up appearances, and this is part and parcel of the elaborate manguvres to secure peace that are now going on in Vienna and Berlin.

HUNGARIAN LONGING FOR PEACE. With regard to Hungary, the people of that country put up with the enforced silence of their Press on the subject of their food troubles because they allow themselves to be persuaded by the authorities that this will in some way lead to that peace which they have long so ardently desired. Only in humorous sketches or in a very veiled form, therefore, are any allusions to the sufferings of the people to be detected. The *Uzsonna* attributes all the food troubles experienced in Budapest to one of the enemy's capitals. It tells its readers how in London the queues before the butter shops are longer than they have ever been before; how people in Paris crowd the pavements before cigar shops and make pitiful appeal for a couple of cigarettes or an ounce of tobacco; and how in Rome the bread ration has been cut down to such an extent that only the hope of an early peace gives strength to the people to bear up under their afflictions. The *Pesti Naplo* began a series of articles by a Special Commissioner on the food difficulties within the country, and the possibilities offered by the coming harvest. It was stopped abruptly after three of the articles had appeared.

The only real subject in the newspapers is that of peace. It is curious to note in this connection that the Socialists, being in favour of peace, have gone up tremendously in the estimation of the general public, and that even the most Conservative journals have adopted Socialist ideas and principles for the time being, and agree with the extreme Radical-Socialists in the contention that there is only one way out of the present difficulties, and that is by the democratisation of the world.

THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE. The Hungarians, in fact, hope against hope that something will come of the Socialist gathering at Stockholm, and at the same time they are turning their eyes with increased interest towards the Russian front. That the Russian Army is doing nothing is recorded every day with evident satisfaction. Indeed, even greater hopes are attached to this inactivity than to the Socialist manguvres. It is true that the Hungarian papers are prohibited from commenting in any way on the subject, but they take great delight in recording the bare fact.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

PROVISIONAL MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

A member submitting a provisional Medical Certificate must see that the Certificate covers the date of any Patrols, or other duty, from which he has been absent by reason of the illness in respect of which the certificate is obtained.

STRENGTH.

P.-c. 760 Beltran is dismissed.

BAND COMMITTEE.

The Band Committee will meet at Headquarters' Club on Tuesday, July 3rd, at 6 p.m.

(Sd.) J. W. FRANKS, Actg. D.S.P. (R.).

28th June, 1917.

MASTERY ORGANISATION.

A Glasgow man: 'I was in the Somme battle, and I was nothing like this show here, though I liked the Somme better—we had more fighting with the bayonet. But the barrage was that heavy, I don't wonder we got the first three lines of trenches without very much trouble. The German trenches were not hardly seen, they were that battered about. We didn't meet any Germans but dead ones, until we went for the railway hut with the bayonet. Aucht then the Fritz put up their hands, then that didn't run away, and never gave us the smell of a decent fight.'

'It went like clockwork just as we rehearsed it behind the line,' said a Monaghan man. 'Our generals and our staffs are cleverer than the Germans. If I look back at the things I used to think were a waste of time, rehearsal and that, I can see that the whole affair has been a matter of organisation by master minds.'

GERMAN DYE.

HONGKONG SUMMARY COURT CLAIM.

German dye figured in an action at the Hongkong Summary Court yesterday when the Hip Hing firm, of 8, Burd Street, claimed \$720 from the Tai Oi firm, of 375, Queen's Road Central. The amount claimed was the balance alleged to be due in goods sold and delivered. The agreed price of one case of "Boy and Butterfly" scarlet dye was \$380, less \$100 which was deposited.

Mr. W. E. L. Shenton was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. A. M. Preston defended.

Mr. Shenton explained that the dye was a German dye and some time ago his firm bought two cases from a firm called the Tai Hing Knitting Factory. On May 10th, a representative of the defendant firm called and spoke about the purchase of one of the cases, and it was agreed that the plaintiffs should sell one of the cases for \$4.40 per tin, there being 200 tins in a case. Delivery was given and the price was paid. It was decided that the defendants should take delivery and pay for the case by May 20th, making a deposit of \$180. On this date negotiations took place and the result was that the case was delivered to the defendants, the *fakt* who made the delivery being told to wait for the money until the man came who had the key of the safe. He waited from 5.30 to 9.00 p.m. and then went back and reported to his employers his failure to get the money. The return of the goods was requested, but this was refused and a man was sent to the Police Station and a detective came down and witnessed the demand for the money or the goods. Both requests were refused. The defendants still had possession of the cases and had not paid for them. Mr. Shenton added that he believed the defence would be that the dye was not up to quality, but that was not stated at the time. Two samples of a dye had been sent to Mr. Dovey, the Government Analyst, but he could not say whether they were samples of the same dye as the plaintiffs sold. At any rate, Mr. Dovey's report stated that they were pure.

Evidence was then given and the hearing was adjourned.

THIRD GYMKHANA MEETING.

The following are the entries for the third Gymkhana meeting to be held on July 7th:

FIVE FURLONGS RACE:—Ariel, Moka, Tittlemouse, Billikin, Social Scherer, Pingwu Chief, Oak Bay, and Sinoia.

GYMKHANA STAKES:—Now Ally, King Dick, Town Mouse, Australian Chief, Cadzow's Waif, Windsor Dahlia, Cloudlands and Anticipation.

CLASS HANDICAP:—Now Ally, King Dick, Town Mouse, Pingwu Chief, Choico, Dahlia, Magic Dahlia, Windsor Dahlia, Hush Hush, Whipper In, Ben Bolt, Oak Bay, Rex, Sinoia, Moka, Ariel and Ploughed Field.

ONE AND A QUARTER MILE HANDICAP:—Tittlemouse, King Dick, Town Mouse, Australian Chief, Cadzow's Waif, Choico, Dahlia, Windsor Dahlia, Cloudlands, Ben Bolt, Rex, Anticipation and Ploughed Field.

R.G.A. SERGEANTS' MESS OUTING.

Thanks to the generosity of the subscribers to the Services Entertainment Fund, the members of the R.G.A. Sergeants' Mess at Lyemun, and the married families of the Company, spent an enjoyable afternoon on Wednesday. Starting at midday the party proceeded on a trip round the island. Lunch was provided on the way to Lamna, and, on reaching that island, swimming, rowing, polo, etc., were indulged in. Some excitement was caused by a Sergeant, who was believed to be an expert swimmer, nearly drowning himself. One of the party, thinking that a joke was taking place, hit the unfortunate man on the head with a polo ball which did not improve matters. Eventually the sergeant was rescued, little the worse for his unpleasant experience. The rowing caused some amusement, as one of the oarsmen, not being very expert, made things rather wet and uncomfortable for the others. After leaving Lamna the party went round the island, arriving back at Lyemun about 6 p.m. Tea was served on the way.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

HOKLOS AND PUNTIS.

The Hoklo and Puntis chair coolie fighting case was concluded yesterday. It was explained to Mr. Wood that the Hoklos were entitled to the chair stands in Wyndham Street, and in front of Blake Pier. The Puntis had the monopoly of the stands in Chater Road, in front of the Post Office, in front of the Hongkong Hotel and at the Star Ferry. Both sets of men could use the stands if they had been engaged to wait.

The two Hoklos, who had trespassed on the Puntis' stand and thus caused the fight, were each fined \$5, and the Puntis was discharged.

ENGLISH NAILS.

In connection with the charge preferred against a Chinese of attempting to export brass nails without a permit, and which was adjourned to allow the defendant to apply for a permit, Inspector Brazil stated that Mr. Lloyd, of the Imports and Exports office, would not grant a permit because the nails were English nails. If they had been of Japanese manufacture he would have granted a permit.

Mr. Wood asked the reason for this discrimination, but Inspector Brazil was unable to give any information on the point. He added that the confiscation of the nails was asked for.

A fine of \$1 was imposed, and the nails were ordered to be confiscated.

NEW LINE OF BUSINESS.

Opium valued at \$280 was found on a Chinese woman in Des Vaux Road yesterday.

When charged before Mr. Wood the defendant stated that she was the keeper of a general store in Canton, and that she came to Hongkong periodically to buy goods. A friend had informed her that opium was a good line of business and she therefore purchased some.

The woman, who was arrested at 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday, had the opium concealed around her waist and also in a basket which had a false bottom.

She was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

THEFT AT THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

Mr. Beaurepaire, assistant manager of the Hongkong Hotel, summoned a Chinese for the theft of a pair of brown boots and also a watch, of the value of \$10. The goods were the property of a Mr. Maslin, who was a guest at the Hotel.

Inspector Brown said that the defendant was employed by a firm of upholsterers who were doing some work at the hotel. The defendant went into a room on the fourth floor and took the things. He was seen in the act by one of the "boys" who chased him to a lower floor, where he was arrested with the boots and watch in his possession.

The excuse put forward by the defendant, who admitted the theft, was that he had been gambling, had lost \$10, and he had to make the money up.

He was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment.

TYPHOON WARNING.

The following telegram has been received by the American Consulate, General, Hongkong, from the Manila Observatory:

11.30 a.m., June 28th.
Warning. Depression north-eastern part China Sea.

"OUR LITTLE BIT SOCIETY."

The undermentioned articles have been sent by "Our Little Bit" Society, Kowloon, to Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. to be forwarded:

To Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, 2, Cavendish Square, London, W.—11 quilts, 11 pillows, 11 pairs stretchers, 80 suits pyjamas, 46 pairs white woollen bed-socks, 8 knitted face-cloths, 23 pairs socks, 34 woollen mufflers, 58 white woollen caps, 51 khaki woollen caps, 62 pairs khaki woollen-caps, 6 floor-cloths, 56 milk-covers, 660 rolled bandages, 58 many-tail bandages, and 1 lot magazines.

HONGKONG POLICE AT THE FRONT.

"MOOCHING" IN "NO MAN'S LAND."

Corpl. Lane, formerly of the detective staff of the Hongkong Police Force and who is now "somewhere in France," has recently written a most interesting letter to a colleague in Hongkong. He is now attached to a Chinese Labour Corps, having been transferred from a Guards' Regiment.

After referring to the fact that a letter which he had written for Hongkong, and which he had placed "safely" in his "rabbit hole," had been buried as the result of a German shell exploding when he was, happily, "away from home," Corporal Lane, whose letter is dated May 15th, says:

"We were expecting the (German) retreat to come some time before it actually did, and when our battalion was in the line the Intelligence crowd got plenty to do every night in trying to find out what was going on in the German lines. We were always in the same piece of front and finally got so familiar with No Man's Land that we 'moached' across it every night with our rifles across our shoulders and our hands in our pockets. We stood looking over the Germans' wire like cows looking into a turnip field. It was dirty, cold and miserable work, and we never did anything more wonderful than to chase an enemy wiring party back home. Our artillery did some great work there, the shells making about fifty Germans run out into the open from an advanced post one day and we picked off quite a few with our rifles at about 200 yards. To give them their due, they carried out the retreat very well, and I think our attack was well-arranged, too, for we made considerable advance with very little loss."

"We got to the second line on March 16th, and on the 17th of 'Ould Ireland' we had chased him from that bit of country. I was in charge of my company's scouts, and we had a No. 1 time on our own, sending back occasional messages to the company. A couple went up into a 'booby' trench and one or two were wounded, but nothing really serious occurred. The Germans never came in for so much cursing before or since as when our crowd got across and found hundreds of empty bottles and jars—never a one with a drop in it. We collected quite a lot of souvenirs which were all turned over to our C.O. to put in some kind of a Guards' Museum. When we got back we were put to work building roads and railways and worked very hard for some weeks."

Referring to the fact that he has been attached to the Chinese Labour Corps, the writer says that the Chinese are all from the North, but some of the interpreters who went on board at Hongkong were very well received and told him a lot of news about the Colony. The European staff in charge of his particular Corps is nearly all composed of men who have been in China. There are about fifteen Europeans to a company of about 500. Corpl. Lane adds, with regard to his particular "platoon":—"I am making proper Guardsmen of them, and they don't drink congee on duty like my 'chop chais' used to."

SAIGON RICE MARKET.

The Compagnie de Commerce et de Navigation d'Extreme-Orient, of Saigon, in their report dated 19th June, states:—Owing to an important demand from the Philippine Islands and Japan for immediate and July-August delivery, the price of rice has advanced again since our last report.

The rains seem to be regular now, and in nearly all the provinces the natives have started ploughing the rice fields. The total amount of rice exported from the 1st January up to the 13th June is 564,042 tons against 548,615 tons in 1916. We quote to-day:—White rice, No. 2 Sifted Japan quality, Hongkong dollars 3.91 per picul, f.o.b. Saigon, for June and July shipment.

TURKEY SUFFERING FROM HUI-G-EE, TYPHUS AND HUNS.

An Armenian arriving at Amsterdam states that famine is general throughout Turkey. Typhus fever has killed thousands within the last few months. There are no doctors in the country to cope with this disease.

The Germans, the Armenian says, are absolutely dominating Turkey. The Ministers are still all Turks, but the viceministers, the real managers, are all Germans of the worst types. The Turkish officers are depressed and discouraged. The German soldiers in Constantinople are indulging in all kinds of excesses. Asahi.

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTS FOR REUX AND BULLECOURT.

DEAD KNEE-DEEP.

[BY FERGIVAL PHILLIPS.]

The ruins of Reux and Bullecourt—seven miles apart—have again been the scene of decisive German defeats.

Reux and Bullecourt are the two most battered towns of the entire Arras battle front. It is difficult to say which is the greatest ruin, so heavily and so thoroughly have they been whipped by the shells of both sides during the fierce struggle for their possession.

COSTLY MOVEMENTS.
Since we stormed these miscellaneous remnants of German defences the enemy has sat in a makeshift position of shallow trenches further along the river bank in front, and his movements were few and costly. Back again in the tunnels and concrete pits of Reux there was more shelter and a tighter grip on the sugging line north and south of the Scarpe.

Try he must, and try he did—with fresh battalions sent out of the fringe of wood-land, beside the marshes and over the broken ground along the Douai railway line against a good three-quarters of a mile front. The left of this attack hit the railway station and the chemical works. I cannot remember how many times this notorious scrap-heap has been the theatre of old-fashioned hand-to-hand warfare—in one day alone it changed hands four times, and the dead lay knee-deep among the twisted machinery, but no other single building involved in this or any other battle of the war has been the scene of more close-quarter fighting in more dramatic circumstances.

It was studied with machine-guns during the successive visits of the Germans, and the wreckage of a dozen defeats encumbered the defences held to-day by our men. Again there were deadly combats, for one wave of enemy infantry was carried right through our barrage into the chemical works, and struggled desperately to remain. Again they were turned out. The British garrison drove through them with bombs and bayonets, and the adventure ended with the flight of surviving fugitives to their own place.

STOUT BASTIONS.
Reux village ruins withstood a similar onslaught. Our men holding the collars of the chateau and the cemetery swept their adversaries with Lewis guns, and many dead Bavarians lie among the craters to-night. The Germans had fortified the Reux defences too well. There were stout concrete bastions, loopholed for machine-guns, that proved their worth in new and disconcerting ways, and the tunnels underlying the cemetery and the village were equally useful to their new tenants.

It is hard to distinguish the living from the dead on the field before Reux—hard, indeed, to pick out any distinguishing feature of the conflict around these ragged walls at the river's edge, harder still to describe in detail the flow and ebb of the German waves across the naked ground.

It is equally hard to picture the uneven fighting at Bullecourt. You must not imagine a typical French village of shops and whitewashed houses, or even the remains of houses, or rushes of infantry up and down the open streets, with desperate little counters of bombers around a picturesque old church, or sallies across an orchard of blossoming apple trees into cottage gardens in pursuit of fugitive Prussian Guards.

There are no houses, no orchards, and no gardens. Imagine rather a flattened heap of rubble, over which toil groups of tired and dirty and unshaven men—so thickly coated with the dust of shell-ground plaster and brick that they are like fantastic figures in a masquerade, struggling along narrow ditches that have been blown in by blasts of high-explosive, sweating under the weight of their bombs, lying flat beneath a few sticks of timber or dodging from a mass of wreckage that half fills a cellar to the round of earth and uprooted iron rails that hides a crumpled, dug-out, the better to fling a grenade into that pile of rubbish.

You cannot find a stick or stone that will help to reconstruct a corner of Bullecourt. Whirlwind barrages and the constant break of human waves against the wall of our defence have wiped away all vestiges of a village from the ground that held it. It is a blank in a pleasant landscape, a strip of torn desert laid on a fertile valley—as dead and utterly formless as that ribbon of lifeless soil called Hill 60 by the salient of Ypres.

HUMAN WRECKAGE.

Nor can I describe clearly the wild and aimless flow of bombers which is the struggle for this desolate place. You hear that the Hun is embedded in a "poet" in the south-west corner, and that our line has sagged back from the thence to the upper cross-roads, and forward again to the main street that bisects the village on the south. The "poet" is the end of a trench wholly hidden in the tumbled earth. There is no church, no cross-roads, no main street. As well try to get your bearings in the Sahara. Without a compass you are helplessly adrift on a Saragasso Sea of tangled wire and human wreckage, with no mark to set you to the north or east, save the mysterious white maze of Hindenburg trenches beyond or a path that is but a bloody trail across the craters—newly trodden on the ashes of last night's barrage—with dead guardsmen in grey and the bodies of their victors to mark the way. Vanished, utterly vanished, and in a few brief weeks of fighting.

Many of the bombers who lie in the insecure shelters of this evil place remember Bullecourt as it was when British patrols, pushing along the roads from Bapaume after the reluctant Hun, looked down for the first time on its neat cottages and trim fields. Even when we closed with the enemy along this new line, and his guns began pounding the country he had given up, Bullecourt survived for a time. Its disintegration began when our net drew tightly around the Hindenburg trenches. Then our men came to grips with the dwellers in the cellars, and the last fragments of the village above them slipped away in the smoke. It is an insignificant ruin.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

(ESTABLISHED 1880).

(TELEPHONE 1741).

NEW STOCKS OF BLACK, BROWN AND PATENT.

"WALK-OVER" BOOTS and SHOES

\$12.00 \$13.50 \$14.50 \$16.50 per pair.

THESE PRICES ARE REMARKABLY LOW AS BOOT

PRICES GO NOWADAYS.

WE CAN GIVE YOU A LARGE SELECTION IN ALL

WEIGHTS AND SIZES.

THE VALUE IS UNQUESTIONABLE, AS THE COMFORT

AND SERVICE OF EVERY PAIR WILL PROVE.

SOLE AGENTS:

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

19

DRINK "BULL DOG" LAGER BEER.

SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED. BRITISH THROUGHOUT.

Brewed in Great Britain.

Bottled by British Labour.

OBTAINABLE AT:—

PRICES DUTY PAID.

Wing On Co., Ltd.

QUARTS—\$20.00 per case

Sincere Co., Ltd.

of 4 dozen.

Sun Co., Ltd.

or \$5.10 per Dozen.

Cheong Tai.

Nam Hing Loong.

PINTS—\$26.50 per case

Ty Sing.

of 8 dozen.

Sang Tai.

Kwan Tye.

or \$3.40 per dozen.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Obtainable in Canton from

SINCERE Co., Ltd.

Admitted to be the Best

Stocked by

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

Lager Beer brewed.

FRESH STOCKS JUST ARRIVED.

[467-8]

Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 346

JUST ARRIVED!

A VARIED ASSORTMENT OF

LADIES' TENNIS AND GOLF SHOES.

NOW ON SHOW.

[30]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

S.S. "DUMBEA,"
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from Havre, &c., in connection with above Steamer are hereby informed that their Goods with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on unless intimation is received from the Consignees before Noon To-day requesting it to be landed here.

Bill of Lading will be countersigned by the Underwriter. Goods remaining unclaimed after the 4th July, at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

All Claims must be sent in to me on or before the 8th July, or they will not be recognized.

All damaged packages will be examined on Tuesday, the 3rd July, at 10 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

F. THOMAS, Agent.

Hongkong, 28th June, 1917. [2]

GENERAL HOLIDAY.

UNDER Ordinance No. 5 of 1912, MONDAY, 2nd July, has been proclaimed a GENERAL HOLIDAY, and the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for Business on that day.

Hongkong, 27th June, 1917. [779]

KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY (BRITISH SECTION).

THE PUBLICS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that commencing on SATURDAY, 30th instant, and on each succeeding Saturday until further notice, Tickets will not be supplied on the Train leaving Kowloon at 1.25 P.M.

By Order, H. P. WINSLOW, Manager.

Kowloon, 28th June, 1917. [780]

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA, E.C.

NOTICE.

AT A SPECIAL MEETING of the DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA, held at the Masonic Hall, 2, Zetland Street, on SATURDAY, 23rd inst., in celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the first Assembly of the Grand Lodge of England, which was commemorated on that day throughout the Empire, a collection was made in aid of the HONGKONG WAR CHARITIES FUND.

Freemasons not present at the Meeting who wish to subscribe may, until 7th July, send donations to W. J. TUTCHER, Esq., who will be glad to receive contributions however small.

By Command of the D. D. G. M. Hongkong, 27th June, 1917. [781]

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Partnership formerly subsisting between the Undersigned and Mr. POON WAN KOCK carrying on Business under the Style or Firm name of UNION TRADING COMPANY in the Colony of Hongkong and elsewhere, has been Dissolved as from the 31st December, 1916, so far as concerns the said Mr. POON WAN KOCK, who Retired from the said Firm on that date.

Dated Hongkong, 27th June, 1917. (84) S. M. CHURN, (84) C. HONKBY. [777]

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE.

OWING TO THE GREATLY INCREASED COST of Manufacture it has been decided to raise the PRICE OF ICE to 1 1/2 cents per lb. as from the 1st July next.

JARLINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers.

Hongkong, 22nd June, 1917. [780]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONGKONG.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of PERCIVAL JULIUS WERLICE, late of the United States Navy, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court has, by virtue of Section 58 of the Probates Ordinance, 1897 (No. 2 of 1897), made an Order limiting the time for sending in Claims to or against the above Estate to the 8th day of July, 1917.

All Creditors and Claimants are hereby required to send their Claims to the Under- signed by the above date.

Dated this 12th day of June, 1917. C. D. WILKINSON, Administrator.

9, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong. [783]

FOR SALE.

DO NOT MISS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

BEAN and Nut OIL MILL PLANT in perfect working order for Sale at next to scrap-iron price.

Please address enquiries to— "K." Care of "Daily Press" Office. [776]

WANTED.

FIRST-CLASS European Book-keeper seeks engagement Write— "H." Care of "Daily Press" Office. [784]

AUCTIONS

G. B. PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS and CONDITIONS of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on TUESDAY, the 3rd day of July, 1917, at 3 P.M., at the Office of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, by Order of His Excellency THE GOVERNOR, of One Lot of CROWN LAND, above Bowen Road, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a CROWN RENT to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty THE KING, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

Locality	Boundary Measurements (Approximate)	Contents	Shall be	Annual Rent	Cost Price
As per plan.	25,000 (about)	172	7,350		

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidators of Messrs. JAMES & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 12 o'clock (Noon) on TUESDAY, the 31st day of July, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, THE VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY situated at The Peak, Hongkong, and being RURAL BUILDING LOT No. 19, in One Lot.

The Property consists of:— The piece or parcel of ground and premises known as "Lytholt," 104, The Peak, situated near Mount Gough, in the Colony of Hongkong, with an area of 194,038 square feet and registered in the Land Office as Rural Building Lot No. 19.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an indenture of Crown Lease dated the 33rd day of April, 1893.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$81.00.

For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to Messrs. WILKINSON & GRIST, Solicitors for the Liquidators, or to the Undersigned.

GEO. P. LAMBERT, Auctioneer. [897]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidator of Messrs. WITZKA & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 12 o'clock (Noon) on MONDAY, the 27th day of August, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Hongkong, All the piece of ground situated at Yaumati, Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, and registered in the Land Office as KOWLOON INLAND LOT No. 208.

The property consists of a piece of ground abutting on Battery Street and Fourth Street (near the Prays) in Kowloon and contains an area of 4,500 square feet.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an Indenture of Crown Lease dated the 4th day of May, 1893.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$60.

For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to Messrs. HASTINGS & HASTINGS, Solicitors for the Liquidator, or to the Undersigned.

GEO. P. LAMBERT, Auctioneer. Hongkong, 23rd May, 1917. [893]

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Aristic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers. All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

FOR SALE.

BAGS OF USED ASIATIC POSTAGE STAMPS.

400 Stamps for \$0.50	2000 Stamps for \$2.00
500 " " 0.80	3000 " " 2.50
1000 " " 1.00	4000 " " 3.20
1500 " " 1.50	5000 " " 4.50

GRACA & CO.

No. 4, WYNDHAM STREET, Hongkong.

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

AT Macao, a NICE FURNISHED HOUSE in the best locality, for Summer. Immediate possession.

Apply to— OFFICE OF PEAK HOTEL [775]

TO LET.

ONE large FURNISHED ROOM and Verandah, with Board and Attendance, on the May Road Level.

Apply to— Box No. 83, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [762]

TO LET.

NOS. 3 A & B, ROBINSON ROAD

Apply to— DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd. [623]

TO LET.

1 NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.

For rent and other particulars apply to— H. M. H. MEMAZEE, 1 Des Voeux Road. [402]

TO LET.

A FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE, with Tennis Court, in Minden Villa, Kowloon.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Apply to— HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd., Alexandra Buildings. [638]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.

HOUSES in King's and York Buildings. HOUSES to Let, Wongsatoh Road. HOUSES in Clifton Gardens, Conduit Road. HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terrace.

HOUSES on Shamsee, Canton.

Apply to— THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd. [78]

TO LET.

NO. 12, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE, SHOP.

No. 2, MERRION, No. 5, THE PEAK. No. 6, BELLIOS TERRACE. No. 7, BELLIOS TERRACE. 4-ROOMED FLAT at the Peak (separate entrance).

KELLET'S CREST, 66, PEAK. No. 28, BELLIOS TERRACE, with entrance on Conduit Road.

TWO GODOWNS, in Duddell Street. No. 2, DES VUEX VILLAS, 51, PEAK (Unfurnished).

Apply to— LYNSTED & DAVIS, 3rd Floor, Alexandra Building. [30]

WANTED.

A NICE COOL ROOM (Furnished or Unfurnished) with Verandah and Bath-room. Attendance but no board required.

Reply to— Box No. 1, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [774]

WANTED.

A HOUSE or WHOLE FLOOR with about 10 Rooms in a central location.

Please apply to— Box No. 1, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [767]

WANTED.

OFFICE at the Central Location.

Apply to— FURUKAWA & Co., 20, Des Voeux Road Central. [703]

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE RATES OF EXCHANGE AT HONGKONG FOR DEMAND DRAFTS ON BOMBAY

On the Day preceding the Departure of the English Mails from the Year of the Closing of the Indian Mints to the Free Coinage of Silver

FROM 1893 to 1899; ALSO RATES FOR SOVEREIGNS, GOLD LEAF, BAR SILVER (From 1900), and other Useful Information.

Price \$1 Cash.

On Sale at the "Daily Press" Office or Local Booksellers.

INTIMATION

BY APPOINTMENT.

WATSON'S STONE GINGER-BEER

The only fermented Stone Ginger-Beer in the Far East.

The real charm of Stone Ginger-Beer is the flavour produced by partial fermentation; without this

no Stone Ginger-Beer can be said to be genuine.

\$1.00 per doz.



A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

STERILIZED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

TELEPHONE 436.

[12]

DEATH.

HUMPHREYS.—Suddenly at sea, on Tuesday, 19th inst., on board the *Empress of Asia*, W. G. HUMPHREYS.—By cable. [778]

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Brothers and Sisters in England and New Zealand of the late Mr. ALFRED HERBERT HEWITT, desire to thank most sincerely all those who, by attendance and exquisite floral tributes at the Cemetery, and by most kind letters, have shown appreciation of their beloved and much-lamented brother, and sympathy with his relatives in their loss. [782]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VUEX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 181, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 29TH JUNE, 1917.

"PEACEFUL PENETRATION"

YESTERDAY we gave some details of the social-economic aspect of the German system of "peaceful penetration" abroad. We shall now give a few details of the manner in which this system sought to support anti-war propaganda and influence the Press in Italy, which at the time was a neutral country. One of the methods adopted in order to support the propaganda which aimed at keeping Italy out of the war was to foment disturbances and strikes and to attempt to win over Socialists or extremists to the German interest. As long ago as 1893 the then Italian Foreign Minister, Signor GIULIO DEVEZIA, stated that every Chancellor knew that some of the big strikes abroad had been organised by German money; and we have recently seen at Athens how a riotous mob can be used to Germany's advantage. A good many of the disturbances which took place in Italy during her period of neutrality were brought about by German or Austrian agents. At Milan meetings of "interventionists" were persistently attacked by "neutralist" bands, whose members nobody knew and who did not belong to any labour group or society, though in this case it was not discovered who was actually directing their operations. At Viareggio, however, where in February, 1915, "neutralists" attempted

to break up a meeting held by the deputy, Signor BATTISTI, it was found that the assailants were strangers to Viareggio and had been organised and financed by an Austrian agent. Similar attempts were organised at Florence in January, 1915, by Germans with German money. A meeting at San Jacopino was broken up by workmen of the German Siemens-Shuckert Company, which had threatened to dismiss any of its workpeople who dared to speak in favour of war. After the riots at Venice in March, 1915, the Socialist paper *Avanti!* lamented that though the Labour Society of Venice had opposed a general strike, the idea of such a strike had, nevertheless, been preached, the leaders being "certain individuals well dressed and well fed," whose nationality does not appear to have been in doubt. Certainly numerous well-to-do Germans took part in anti-war riots at Naples and at Empoli. A definite attempt to bribe an "anarchist" was made by a personage at the Villa Malta, the residence of the German Ambassador, Prince von Bulow. The man revealed the matter to his Society, and by their direction went to the Villa Malta to see what would be proposed. He was told there was no intention to bribe anyone, but that it was Italy's interest to remain neutral, as most anarchists understood, and as they were poor they could have as much money as they liked for their propaganda. Brown-pistols and dynamite were also mentioned, and the personage stated that further negotiations would be carried on, not at the Ambassador's house, but in a hired apartment in Rome. The Society, of course, went no further. A very thoroughgoing attempt was made to bribe the Italian Socialist party bodily at their National Convention held at Bologna on the 16th May, 1915. The well-known Swiss Socialist, Herr GRENICH, introduced to the meeting a certain Professor NATHAN, represented as a Swiss Socialist returned from America. NATHAN stated that an American lady of Chicago, on behalf of a well-known millionaire, had authorised him to offer the Convention a large sum (it ran into millions of lire) to aid the peace propaganda of the Italian Socialists. The President at once suspended the sitting and called on NATHAN to withdraw; the meeting then demanded an explanation from GRENICH, who finally gave the lady's name and said that the money was to be found by Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE. The offer was, of course, refused, and in due course it appeared that neither the lady nor Mr. CARNEGIE knew anything about the matter; it is stated that it is now known that the proposal originated with the German Government. Lastly, we may mention what is, perhaps, the strangest strike ever recorded. In Prato, a place where the local labour leaders were mostly in favour of war, a strike broke out on 19th April, 1915, in the works of Fabbrione, on the cry of "down with the war," and the strikers forced all the workmen in the town to join. These works were owned by three Germans named KOESSLER, MAYER, and KLINGER, and it was discovered that they had themselves authorised the strike and promised to pay their workpeople for the days they were out.

In 1893 the Reichstag, at the request of Count CARLVI, passed a credit for the purpose of paying the expenses of publications abroad useful to German policy. This soon bore fruit. Dr. HAMANN made the Press Bureau of the Foreign Office a considerable power in championing Germany's economic and political interests in foreign countries. When he retired (November 1st, 1916) he was intended, according to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, to perfect the system of "influencing" the British and American Press. According to the same journal, there were by August, 1914, in foreign countries 168 papers; either German or tied to German interests, engaged in forming public opinion in a sense favourable to Germany. Everyone is now familiar with the German trick of inserting in one of these papers of their own in some neutral country an article in praise of some German action or other, and then having that article quoted in the Press of Germany as evidence that the country in question approves of what Germany has done; indeed, this trick is now so well understood that, though noxious, it is no longer as dangerous as it was. In Italy the Germans began by trying to buy up four great dailies—*Corriere de la Sera*, *La Stampa*, *Tribuna* and *Giornale d'Italia*. Failing in this, they fell back on humbler methods. A certain VIRGILIO SCATOLINI, owner of a paper called *L'Aquila*, confessed that he had

started the paper as the result of an agreement between himself and the Austrian Consul, von PILKA, and the German Consul, OSTWALD. Von PILKA had supplied the money and all information necessary to start it; OSTWALD had written an article for the first number; the Embassy at Rome had promised help, both material and moral, especially advertisements from Germans in Italy. Austrian agents in Rome themselves founded in January, 1915, an anarchist sheet *Gin' le armi!* ("Drop your swords"), and tried to foist it on the anarchists of Rome. This paper collapsed; but numbers of journals sprang up in the provinces whose origin and financing was a mystery. More important was the case of COSTANZO CHAUVER, who put his paper, the *Popolo Romano*, at the service of the Central Powers, merely becoming more active in their favour after Italy entered the war. In a libel action brought by CHAUVER against the *Idea Nazionale*, in which, among others, the head of the Press Bureau and Signor SALANDRA himself gave evidence, it was proved that CHAUVER had sold himself to Austria; that he had installed as editor of his paper a certain MAXIMILIAN CLAAR, a paid agent of the Austrian Embassy; that other members of the staff had been recommended to him by the Austrian Ambassador; and that the Press Bureau was constantly obliged to suppress unpatriotic articles in the paper, which aimed at depressing public opinion and undermining confidence in the Government and the Army. Interesting, too, are some of the details of the visit paid by a party of Italian journalists to Germany during Italy's neutrality, a visit which gave rise to several actions for libel and to a commission of enquiry held by the Federation of the Italian Press. The facts thus established may be summarised as follows. The visit was organised by the Bureau of Propaganda in Berlin, which is under the control of the Foreign Office. The money was found by the Hansa Bund. The local arrangements were made by the German Consul in Milan and by a German trader in Milan, FRITZ ROECKLING, a man in touch with the Hansa Bund, who was subsequently arrested for fraudulent bankruptcy. No request was made to the Italian Press through the proper channels to send representatives, but ROECKLING got together a party of journalists by soliciting individuals. A note of the sums paid to them was produced at one of the trials; and in one case at least a considerable *douceur* was shown to have been given in addition to expenses. The party, on leaving Italy, were met at Monaco by the Bavarian Chancellor, Count von HERRLING, who invited them to consider the unity, the strength and the organisation of the German people; and the *Berlin Lokai Anzeiger* published its account of the visit, not as Italian correspondence, but as information supplied by a Berlin Agency, i.e., through the Foreign Office. These details throw an interesting light on the much-advertised visits of journalists from other neutral countries to Germany and the kind of information they send home; they are not in a position to form and transmit an independent judgment. It may be remembered that an account at first-hand of how the scheme is worked was published recently in this newspaper.

Owing to sudden illness, the lectures and drill to be given at the Military Hospital to-day (Friday) have been postponed indefinitely.

Sergeant Stagg, Gunners Munson and McEvoy, who left Hongkong for home after the outbreak of war, have been wounded but are progressing favourably. Bomb. Carroll, who left at the same time, has been killed in action.

Gun practice will be carried out from Mount Davis on the 3rd, 5th, 17th and 19th July in a S.W. and W. direction between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and from Pottinger Battery in a S.E. direction on 6th, 13th, 15th, and 20th of July between the same hours.

A very successful Whist Drive was held in the Dockyard Naval Police Mess on Wednesday evening, eighteen tables being occupied. Prizes were won as follows:—Ladies—1st, Mrs. Bewell; 2nd, Mrs. Robinson; 3rd, Mrs. Budden. Men—1st, Mr. Bacon; 2nd, Mr. Crocker; 3rd, Mr. Cochrane; Booby prize, Mr. Townsend. Mr. A. B. Allen, the M.C., handed the prizes to the winners.

THE WAR.

BRITISH MAINTAIN AGGRESSIVE PRESSURE.

GERMANS SPEAK OF BRITISH WITH FEAR.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN FRANCE.

P. & O. "MONGOLIA" MINED AND SUNK.

GREEK CABINET FORMED.

Franco-Belgian front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

SHARP FIGHTING.

LONDON, June 27th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our artillery has repulsed raiders northward of Roenx. There was sharp fighting, with considerable enemy loss.

We brought down six and drove down two enemy aeroplanes. None of ours are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

NIPPED IN THE BUD.

LONDON, June 27th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our artillery this morning prevented the development of a counter-attack to the north-west of Fontaine-les-Croisilles.

We successfully raided to the west of Oppy, while our fire stopped a raid to the south-west of La Bassée.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

PARIS, June 27th.

A communiqué states:—There was greater reciprocal artillery activity displayed in the Hurtelise-Craonne and Avocourt sectors and on the heights south of Moronvillers.

EARLIER CABLES.

A communiqué states that an artillery duel was fairly lively in the region of Laffaux mill. There was a violent bombardment of Rheims.

ENEMY STRONGHOLD CAPTURED.

A communiqué states:—The artillery struggle continues most violently in the region of Hurtelise.

Among the organisations which we captured on the 25th instant is "The Dragon's Leave," which is over a hundred metres wide and three hundred metres deep, with many exits and shafts in which machine-guns were placed. It constituted an important stronghold and was the point of departure for enemy counter-attacks. It contained considerable war material, including nine machine-guns, over three hundred sets of equipment, many rifles, ammunition searchlights and a dressing station. So far, the prisoners number 340, including nine officers.

THE "SUCCESSFUL" MINOR OPERATION.

LONDON, June 27th.

The Times' Correspondent at Headquarters, referring to the British progress south-west of Lens, says:—What the official communiqué called "a successful minor operation" in this region had a success the significance of which is beyond its actual dimensions. As an advance it gave us the slopes of Hill 65, dominating a height in this section which is about five hundred yards in front of the British line. The English troops from the South Midlands took the Hill with little difficulty, although the 55th Prussian Division were holding it. They were told they would be given a rest if they held it, but the enemy never came near recapturing the position. On the contrary, they evacuated the whole complicated mass of trench-lines immediately before and around the Hill, and retreated into the fringes of Lens itself.

BRITISH AGGRESSIVE PRESSURE.

LONDON, June 27th.

Reuter's Correspondent at the British Headquarters states:—Strong battle patrols are maintaining aggressive contact with the enemy to the south and west of Lens, where we continue to gain ground.

The right flank of our present advance appears to rest upon the Arras-Lens Railway and the present push extends beyond Reservoir Hill, otherwise Hill 65.

The enemy's resistance can scarcely be called rearguard fighting, since we are apparently pressing the whole of his retiring line. He cannot employ artillery much, because he would probably punish his own infantry equally with ours.

The German line now fronts on Avion, in which many fires and explosions have been occurring during the past few days.

FEAR THE BRITISH.

AMSTERDAM, June 27th.

The population of Menin, north-east of Messines, has evacuated.

The German General Staff has left Courtrai for Ghent.

The Germans now speak of the British, not with dislike, but with fear.

The whole of Flanders is now like a fortress.

Russian front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIANS COMPEL ENEMY TO RETIRE.

LONDON, June 27th.

A wireless Russian official report states:—Southward of Brzeznia the enemy forced his way into our trenches. Our counter-attack compelled the enemy to retire. There was intense enemy artillery firing in the regions of Potutory, Ribnik, and Kotov.

KURDS REPULSED.

We repulsed a Kurdish attack, south-eastward of Erzingan.

We occupied enemy trenches at the Abshirvan River.

THE "BRESLAU" ACTIVE.

The cruiser Breslau on June 25th bombarded the radio-station and lighthouse on Fidonisi Island. Our warships pursued the Breslau to the Bosphorus.

Italian front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

AUSTRIANS RECAPTURE POSITIONS.

LONDON, June 27th.

An Austrian communiqué says:—We completely recaptured, after tenacious fighting, the positions south of the Sugana Valley which were still in the enemy's hands. All counter-attacks are collapsing.

We took 1,800 prisoners.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

LABOUR DELEGATES TO RUSSIA.

LONDON, June 27th.

At a Conference of seafarers' organisations held in London it was unanimously resolved not to remove the embargo on Messrs. Macdonald and Jowett proceeding to Russia at present.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN FRANCE.

LONDON, June 28th.

The first United States contingents have arrived in France.

DESCRIPTION OF ARRIVAL.

LONDON, June 28th.

Reuter's Correspondent, telegraphing from "Somewhere in France," describes the arrival of the first United States contingents on French soil.

The huge transports, escorted by destroyers, were sighted at six o'clock in the morning.

Great crowds assembled as they were slowly brought alongside.

The troops came to the salute at eight o'clock, and they raised cheers, to which the populace heartily responded.

German war-prisoners working on the breakwater gazed in astonishment at the spectacle.

The American General, who is a Cuban, Philippines, and Mexican veteran, was received in a most friendly manner by the French officers, and he proceeded to inspect his encampments.

Stores were quickly landed, and the men will land presently.

THE MESOPOTAMIA REPORT.

PRESS COMMENTS.

LONDON, June 27th.

Among the Press comments on the Mesopotamia Report the *Daily Telegraph* says it is the most melancholy, most damning and most humiliating document of the war. It is for Parliament to give effect to the national opinion which the disclosures will certainly produce.

The *Morning Post* says:—Such incompetence and neglect deserve something more than censure. The attitude of the three gods of Olympus, Viscount Hardinge, General Sir Beauchamp-Duff, and Sir William Meyer makes it impossible for any of them to continue further in public employment.

The *Daily Chronicle* says:—The Indian Army has been the school of brave men and efficient officers, but dry rot and inefficiency have been at the top.

QUESTIONS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons, replying to questions regarding the Mesopotamia Report, Mr. Bonar Law suggested postponement of discussion for a week to enable the House to consider the Report. He stated that it was obviously the Government's duty to take immediate action regarding those specially accused of culpability.

Replying to questions as to whether Viscount Hardinge would retain his present position, Mr. Bonar Law said these questions assume Viscount Hardinge is guilty. He had no wish to make any such assumption at present.

THE CURZON-KITCHENER DISPUTE.

The Times says it is understood that Viscount Hardinge will seek the earliest opportunity to make a statement in the House of Lords regarding the Mesopotamia Report.

The rule which prevents permanent officials who are peers from addressing the Lords will presumably be waived in his favour.

Should Viscount Hardinge's statement be followed by a debate, Lord Curzon will find himself in a peculiar position.

The Report goes far to vindicate the reasons which led him to resign the Viceroyalty of India twelve years ago, which has constantly been misunderstood in this country. He had no difference with the late Lord Kitchener about the reorganization of the Army in India. The dispute arose because Lord Curzon protested against the excessive centralized powers with which Lord Kitchener sought to invest the office of Commander-in-Chief. Lord Curzon protested that the position was unconstitutional, and he predicted that disaster would inevitably ensue in the event of war. Lord Curzon would be less than human if he did not desire to say something about this.

P. & O. "MONGOLIA" LOST.

STRUCK A MINE.

BOMBAY, June 27th.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's mail steamer *Mongolia* was sunk on June 23rd, as a result of striking a mine.

Boats containing a number of passengers and crew have arrived.

There are no further details.

[We learn from an authoritative source that the passengers destined for China are safe.]

P. & O. S. N. COY.

LONDON, June 28th.

At a meeting of the P. & O. S. N. Coy., the arrangements for the acquisition of the Union Company of New Zealand were unanimously confirmed.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

LONDON, June 27th.

The Admiralty announce that the arrivals of shipping during the week were 2,876, and the sailings 2,923.

Twenty-one vessels over and seven under 1,600 tons were sunk. Twenty-two were unsuccessfully attacked.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

ROME, June 28th.

The shipping return for the week ending June 24th shows that 583 ships arrived and 535 departed.

One steamer and two sailing ships were lost.

AFFAIRS IN GREECE.

THE GREEK CABINET.

ATHENS, June 28th.

The new Cabinet, has been formed as follows:—M. Venizelos, Premier and War Minister; M. Repoulis, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and M. Condouriotis, Minister of Marine.

EARLIER CABLES.

A GERMAN TALE.

ATHENS, June 27th.

The reservist demonstrators on June 24th cheered Germany. General von Mackensen tried to spread a report that Salonika had fallen, but the Allied troops arrived within four hours and Franco-Russians with artillery are encircling the city.

M. Jonnart considers the situation at Peloponnesus as disquieting. The blockade at Peloponnesus is possibly preventing the export of currants.

The French Government has demanded of M. Zaimis the dismissal of the Chief of Police and the punishment of the organisers of the demonstration.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

COSSACKS SUPPORT GOVERNMENT.

PETROGRAD, June 27th.

The Cossacks' Congress passed a resolution of confidence in the Government, and promised strong support towards the ending of anarchy, and the stifling of all efforts at a counter-revolution.

COURTS-MARTIAL ABOLISHED.

PETROGRAD, June 27th.

A Lieutenant named Debedeff has been appointed Temporary Minister of Marine. The Government has abolished courts-martial, substituting permanent Military Courts for urgent grave cases.

M. Kerenski is touring Nazan and the Caucasian front.

DUTCH POTATO FIGHT.

ROTTERDAM, June 27th.

There were noisy scenes in the neighbourhood of the lighters laden with export potatoes. Mounted and foot police charged the mob who are demanding the distribution of the tubers.

ONE HUNDREDWEIGHT PILLAGED.

The total amount of potatoes pillaged on the 24th instant did not exceed one hundredweight. They did not form part of the consignment to Great Britain. The populace, however, continues to crowd the wharves, watching the lighters bringing the potatoes from the country to the ships. There were some fresh disturbances yesterday.

BYE-ELECTION AT LIVERPOOL.

LONDON, June 27th.

In the bye-election in the Abercromby Division of Liverpool, due to Col. R. G. W. Chaloner's elevation to the peerage, the new Federation of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, which Mr. J. Hogge, M.P., and Mr. W. M. H. Pringle, M.P., organised, has seized the opportunity to run the ex-soldier, Mr. Frank Hughes, managing director of the *Merchant Service Review*, who fought at Mons, as their candidate in opposition to Lord Derby's son, Lord Stanley, chiefly as a protest against the re-enlistment of discharged soldiers.

Mr. Hughes has been voicing other popular discontents, notably food profiteering, the decreased supply of workmen's beer and the prohibition of racing, but his candidature is in nowise pacific. It claims to have the solid Jewish vote. The Liberals, Unionists and Nationalists, however, are supporting Lord Stanley, who has been twice wounded in the war. They protest against the signatories to Mr. Hughes' nomination, which include those of eleven naturalized aliens.

PREMIER'S SUPPORT.

Mr. Lloyd George has wired to Lord Stanley wishing him success in his candidature for Abercromby. The telegram states:—"As a soldier who fought in some of the fiercest battles in France you are well fitted to see justice done to our gallant soldiers."

SITUATION IN SPAIN.

MADRID, June 27th.

Señor Dato in a statement justifying martial law, declares that certain foreign correspondents are implicated in the revolutionary movement. He states that the censorship of the newspapers is essential, because their distorted views on the international situation are incompatible with neutrality, which Spain refuses to abandon.

STONING A GERMAN CONSULATE.

BERNE, June 27th.

The Commission on Foreign Affairs recently appointed consists of:—President, M. Schulthess; Vice-President, M. Calonder; and Councillor Ador.

An apology has been tendered to the German Minister for the recent stonethrowing at the German Consulate at Geneva.

MOVEMENT OF RACEHORSES!

LONDON, June 28th.

A decision in favour of the partial resumption of racing is expected forthwith. The following horses have left Newmarket for India:—Stop-Watch, Corisol, Red Spear and Francis Armand. These will be joined on board by Tagamor, Mazboot, Shilborne, Foolish Fancy, Royal Bank and Pretensions.

GERMANY AGREES TO CEDE SHIPS TO HOLLAND.

THE HAGUE, June 27th.

It is officially stated that Germany has agreed to cede a number of German ships now in the Dutch East Indies in value equivalent to the seven vessels torpedoed on February 23rd. Germany will also compensate the crews of the lost ships.

GERMAN SHIPPING AT ROTTERDAM.

ROTTERDAM, June 27th.

Twenty-two German ships from Hamburg and the Baltic entered the new waterway last week. German shipping at Rotterdam is steadily increasing.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

HIS MAJESTY'S CONGRATULATIONS.

LONDON, June 27th.

The Press Bureau announces that His Majesty the King, on his return from a visit to the Grand Fleet, sent a message to Admiral Sir David Beatty congratulating him on the Fleet's high standard of preparedness, and saying that the Navy stood higher in the estimation of friend and foe.

Admiral Beatty replied assuring His Majesty of unswerving loyalty and devotion.

GALLANT DEEDS REWARDED.

LONDON, June 27th.

The Gazette announces the award of eight Victoria Crosses, the recipients including Lieutenant R. G. Combe, of the Canadian Contingent, for conspicuous gallantry in leading an attack which reached its objective. With five men he collected others and repeatedly charged, taking eighty prisoners. He secured the object before he was killed.

Another recipient is Lance-Corporal J. Welch, of the Berkshires, who, after killing one man in a severe hand-to-hand struggle, chased and captured four of the enemy with only an empty revolver. He kept the machine-guns firing for five hours by daring and initiative.

Sergeant Major E. Brooks, of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, also received the Victoria Cross. Single-handed, he captured a machine-gun which was holding up an attack, killing two of the gun's crew. He then turned the machine-gun on the enemy, ensuring the success of the attack.

Another recipient is Private Tom Fresser, of the Yorkshires, who, despite the fact that he was twice wounded and exhausted, conveyed a most important message to the front line trench, which proved most valuable at a critical time.

GERMANY'S "NO CONQUESTS" PEACE.

PARIS, June 27th.

General Petain, in the course of a striking article in the *Bulletin des Armées*, says that Germany, having failed to obtain peace by force, is at present scheming to secure it by a ruse, including the formula of "No conquests," which German Socialists are spreading abroad, although the same Socialists at home refused to condemn the Government's plan to dominate Europe. Germany still maintained these preposterous aims without having the honesty to admit them.

GERMANY EXPORTING GOLD.

AMSTERDAM, June 27th.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* states that there has been considerable export of gold recently from Germany, the object being to arrest the fall of the mark.

It is significant that the *Berliner Tageblatt* is now endorsing the Socialist plea for the immediate introduction of a Parliamentary Government.

AMERICAN COTTON MARKET.

NEW YORK, June 28th.

Renewed foreign domestic trade buying has advanced cotton 80 to 95 points for July and has reached 28.91, a new high record, but the market reacted on realisations, closing, however, 50 to 72 points higher.

EGYPTIAN COTTON EXCHANGE.

ALEXANDRIA, June 28th.

The Cotton Exchange has been closed until June 30th.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, June 28th.

Silver is quoted 39½d. There is no demand and more silver is offering. The market is steady.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE PRESIDENT AND KWANGTUNG.

SHANGHAI, June 28th.

The President has sent a delegate to Kwangtung with a letter. The Vice-President has wired to Chen Ping-kun, Tan Ho-ming and Li Lih-chun asking them to mediate with Li King-shi. Chang Ching-yao has been ordered to go to Peking.

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WEATHER REPORT.

On June 28th at 11.30.—No returns from Japanese stations. Pressure has decreased slightly over Formosa and along the south-east coast of China. It has increased slightly in other districts.

A depression, which at present appears to be shallow, is central between Formosa and the Philippines.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. today, 0.17 inch. Total since 1st January, 27.47 inches, against an average of 27.93 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

DISTRICT	FORECAST.
Hongkong to Gap Rock	(Light, variable winds; fair.
Formosa Channel	The same as No. 1.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lamooon	No. 1.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Taiwan	No. 1.

HONGKONG'S STORM SIGNALS

A NEW CODE.

New local and non-local storm signals codes will be introduced at Hongkong on July 1st, in place of the old Local Code and the China Coast Code.

The principal change in the Local Code is that the new signals will show the direction from which the gale is expected; whereas the old signals showed the position of the typhoon. The latter will be indicated, as heretofore, by the non-local signals. The new Local Code is given below:

SIGNAL	MEANING.
1.—Red cone	A typhoon exists which may possibly cause a gale at Hongkong within 24 hours.
2.—Black cone	Gale expected from the North (N.W. to N.E.).
3.—Black cone	Gale expected from the South (S.E. to S.W.).
4.—Black drum	Gale expected from the East (N.E. to S.E.).
5.—Black ball	Gale expected from the West (N.W. to S.W.).
6.—Double cone	Gale expected to increase.
7.—Black cross	Wind of typhoon force expected (any direction).

Signal No. 7 will be accompanied by three explosive bombs, fired at intervals of 10 seconds at the Water Police Station and repeated at the Harbour Office.

The signals will be lowered when it is considered that all danger is over.

The Day Signals will be displayed at the masthead of the storm signal mast on Blackhead Hill, the Harbour Office, H.M.S. *Tamar*, Green Island signal mast, the flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon, the flagstaff on the premises of the Standard Oil Company at Lai-chikok, and the flagstaff near the Field Officer's Quarters at Lyemun.

NIGHT SIGNALS. (Lamps)

1.—White-white-white.
2.—White-green-green.
3.—Green-white-white.
4.—Green-green-white.
5.—White-white-green.
6.—Green-green-green.
7.—Red-green-red.

The Night Signals will be displayed, at sunset, on the tower of the Railway Station, on H.M.S. *Tamar*, and on the Harbour Office flagstaff. They will have the same signification as the day signals.

Signal No. 7 will be accompanied by explosive bombs as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published at night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNING.

When local signals are displayed in the Harbour a cone will be exhibited at the following stations:—Gap Rock, Waglan, Stanley, Aberdeen, Sai Ki Wan, Sai Kung, Sha Tau Kok and Tai Po, to notify the fact to native craft and passing ocean vessels.

Further details can always be given to ocean vessels, on demand, by signal from lighthouses.

The object of the code is to give at least 24 hours warning of a gale (Force 8 by Beaufort Scale, or 40-45 m.p.h., mean velocity by Dines Anemometer) and also warnings of expected changes in the direction and force of the wind. Owing, however, to the uncertain movements of typhoons and to insufficient telegraphic observations, it will occasionally happen that signals 2 to 5 may be displayed without a gale occurring at Hongkong, or even Gap Rock, but the reverse is not likely to happen, except in the case of typhoons forming in the vicinity and travelling rapidly towards Hongkong, or of a located typhoon increasing its rate of progression abnormally.

Signal No. 1 is intended as a warning to "Stand By" and watch for the next signal.

In the new Non-Local Code the approximate velocity of the storm centre will be shown, in addition to its direction of motion, and the position of the centre will be given in degrees of latitude and longitude. The time at which the warning was issued will also be shown.

THE POSITION IN TURKEY.

A SEPARATE PEACE DISCUSSED.

A foreign official, who was recently in Constantinople and in whom the *Daily News* expresses every confidence, contributed the following article to that paper on April 30th:—

The Turkish Empire, has often been in very difficult circumstances in the past, but never, in the opinion both of the Turks and the members of the Diplomatic Corps at Constantinople, has its situation ever been as critical and precarious as at present. No one knew exactly why Enver Pasha hurried off to Berlin and Vienna early in the year, but at the Turkish Foreign Office the officials, at the time, when the subject cropped up, looked very grave, and talked vaguely about a serious situation having arisen. When Enver came back some weeks ago he told the public, through the newspapers, that the mission had succeeded beyond all anticipation, whereas at the Club de Constantinople, once practically a British institution, of which the Grand Vizier is the present president, he told (as I happen to know), one of his closest friends, that his reception at Berlin was cordial, but that everyone "was too hurried, and upset to pay much attention to his proposals."

THE GAZA BATTLE.

The fall of Bagdad and the steady progress of the British troops in Palestine has considerably undermined Enver's authority. When Bagdad fell members of the Diplomatic Corps in Constantinople expressed the view that the Turkish Empire would collapse in six weeks. The advance on Gaza increased the alarm among the general population, and depression among the ruling classes; and it is possible that had the British been entirely successful in the Gaza battle Turkey would have packed off to Berlin its German masters and have openly petitioned for peace. As it turned out, however, the British check at Gaza was exploited by the Germans as a tremendous victory, and the popular agitation has been temporarily quietened. Significant evidence of the German reading of the present situation is that the womenfolk and children of the German officers and officials who were sent to Berlin after the fall of Bagdad have not returned to Constantinople. The general feeling in diplomatic circles at Constantinople is that if the British succeed in pushing on rapidly to Jerusalem, Damascus, and Beirut the Turks will throw up the sponge.

A SEPARATE PEACE?

There is a great deal of talk now at Constantinople about the possibilities of a separate peace. Prominent Turks, in discussing this question generally express the belief that neither England nor France will consent to any peace which stops short of the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire. For the first time since their inception there is a general disposition in Turkey to condemn and regret the Armenian massacres—not on humanitarian grounds, but simply because (in the belief of the Turks) the memory of these massacres constituted an insuperable obstacle against any understanding between Turkey and the Entente Powers. Naturally enough, Germany carefully fosters this belief. A great deal of nonsense is talked from time to time, outside Turkey, about the revival of the Old Turk Party, the uprise of a pro-British Party, or the alarm which Enver Pasha feels at his dwindling power. As a matter of fact the utmost political stagnation prevails at Constantinople; and if the truth were known Enver probably wants as quickly as possible to get out of the mess into which he has landed himself and his country. Probably 99 per cent. of the Turks lament the policy which has hampered their country to Germany, deplore the humiliation it is daily undergoing, and pray fervently for peace; but in their phlegmatic fatalistic way they let things run their course, hoping the while that Allah will avert the final catastrophe.

THE VERGE OF STARVATION.

The reports which reach the outer world from time to time about conditions in Turkey invariably understate the facts. The vast mass of the Turkish population is now subsisting on the verge of starvation. The misery which prevails at Constantinople among the middle and working classes is heart-breaking; and which conditions inland, owing to the epidemics which prevail, are even worse. There is no cholera at Constantinople, and the admirable sanitary measures imposed on the city by the Germans have succeeded in keeping typhus within close limits. The Germans tried to make the tramway company daily disinfect their vehicles, but as usual, they acted in the matter without tact, and the company refusing, no European now travels in the trams. Pitiful incidents, indicating the misery of the people, can be witnessed daily at any street corner. The faces you see are haggard, pinched, and worn, the eyes haunted, the frames feeble. I do not know whether people die of starvation in Constantinople, but I have frequently seen old men and women collapse—I suppose from hunger—in the streets. Poor people will pay enormous sums for worm-eaten figs with which one would not attempt to poison a mad dog. In the old far-off days of peace the average humble class Turk would make a piece of bread and cheese; some olives and some Turkish delight form his principal meal. To-day such a meal would probably cost him (in English money) about 5s.

SUGAR 25d. A LUMP!

Prices have risen steadily since the beginning of the war, and in English terms are now something like the following:—Butter, 10s. the lb.; cheese, 10s. the lb.; olives, 3s. the lb.; sugar, 10s. the lb.; rice, 4s. the lb.; Turkish delight, 8s. the lb. The veritable famine in sugar which now prevails at Constantinople is

a great blow to the sweets-loving Turks. Lumps of sugar at 25d. each lump are hawked about the streets. Austria has recently promised to send Turkey 2,000 wagons of sugar, at the rate of 200 wagons a month, but owing to the great scarcity of rolling stock none of the Turks treat this promise very seriously. In spite of the hunger and object misery everywhere prevailing, the Turk manifests no desire to revolt. Food riots are unknown at Constantinople, and the shops are never looted.

The shortage of bread is a great cause for complaint among the women. The Turkish Government, at the instigation of the Germans, early in the present year introduced a rationing system, but the wealthy Turks declined to submit to it, and the elaborate organization set up speedily collapsed. The apathy of the Turks angers the foreign observer. Only once have they been roused from their apathy, and that was when the thousands of wounded poured into Constantinople from the Dardanelles. The sight of their dying menfolk caused several hundred women to march to the War Office to call on the Government to give them back their sons.

In Turkey, as in other belligerent countries, the war has opened up new avenues of employment to women. The Greeks and Armenians formerly employed at the post and telephone offices have been dismissed and their places taken by Turkish women and girls. The war has hastened rather than checked the emancipation of Turkish women. All the young women wear veils of the flimsiest description, and in the trams they always draw them up from their faces. An incident which illustrates the strength of the "new woman" movement in Turkey occurred quite recently. The following notice was issued by the police department:—

The adoption of new forms of apparel has become a public scandal in Constantinople. All Mohammedan women are given two days in which to lengthen their skirts, discard corsets, and substitute thick for flimsy veils.

Two days passed, and the following notice appeared:—

We regret that through the interference of certain old women a subordinate of the police department has attempted to regulate the costumes which Mohammedan women wear. The police department regrets this blunder and cancels the previous order.

The "police subordinate" who blundered was an invention of the department, anxious to find an excuse to capitulate to the storm which the original order provoked. The wives of Turkish aristocrats, Ministers and high Government officials threatened to hold up the Red Crescent nursing work in Turkey, the telephone girls threatened to strike, the post-office girls to leave the post-office, unless the offending order was cancelled; and before two days had passed Turkish women determined to be Westernized, had won. The incident provoked an outburst of indignation on the part of the women against the German authorities in Turkey, who were accused, probably wrongly, with wanting to keep Turkish women in a backward condition.

THE TASK-MASTERS.

It may be mentioned that some illusions are entertained outside Turkey regarding the powers possessed by the German authorities in Turkey. The Germans are certainly the masters of the Turks in the sense that they control the Turkish Government, but the influence of the German officials over the civilian population is very small. The German police in Constantinople are strictly forbidden to interfere with the population, and even in the army Turkish soldiers are not compelled to be subservient towards their German officers. Besides holding them responsible for the misery and misfortune which have befallen their country, the Turks dislike the Germans personally. On the other hand, the German naval and military officers make no secret of their contempt for what they regard as the laziness and slackness of their Turkish charges. Admiral von Suchow, the German Admiral at Constantinople, is never tired of declaring to other Europeans at the Constantinople Club that the Turks, as fighting men, are hopelessly inefficient. The *Geben* and the *Bruday* have been anchored in Stenya Bay for over a year, and although it is impossible for a foreigner to inspect them, it is probably true that they are in a terribly battered and useless condition.

WAR LOANS WHILE YOU WAIT.

The principal pre-occupation of the Turkish Parliament is the deplorable financial condition of the country. Gold, nickel, and copper have long since vanished from circulation, and the country is flooded with notes and stamps—the latter worth about 25d. each—of all kinds. At the back of the notes in one of these categories is a design of Kut, and an inscription, rather amusing in the light of recent events, to the effect that, thanks to the bravery of our Turkish troops and their German allies, the town will remain in Turkish hands until the end of time. Every time that the Turkish Government is hard up it asks Berlin for a "loan." The "loan" consists in permission by the German Government for the Turkish authorities to issue paper money for the amount required. The German Government has promised to redeem, out of the indemnities exacted from its enemies, all the paper money issued in Turkey during the war. The mark has dropped extremely low lately in value in Turkey.

THE BRITISH COLONY.

Most of the members of the British colony at Constantinople left at the outbreak of the war, and those who remain number from 100 to 150—have, on the admiration of friends and enemies alike by their courage and dignity in very difficult circumstances. The British business houses in Constantinople are open as usual, and generally speaking, the members of the present British colony are

WHEN FOOD HOARDING WAS A VIRTUE.

BEING THE LETTER OF A DISCOURAGING PARENT TO HIS SON AT THE FRONT.

My dear Mumbo.—My grateful thanks for your offer to send us a tin of biscuits now and then. You are an impudent young rascal to chaff your family about their depleted cupboard, and if you do it again I shall have to stop your allowance. But I like your idea of the "Organisation of Officers at the Front for Forwarding Food Parcels to Fond Parents."

I may come to that yet, but we do not actually go short of anything we really want. Calm your anxious comrades upon that point, but we are getting apprehensive every morning of some fresh Devonshire "Don't!" in the newspaper. What the British middle-class mother—who is Public Opinion—feels most keenly up to now is the prohibition of Food Hoarding. She is a Hoarder by instinct and habit.

Every one of them that you and I know has always accumulated vast stores of something or other—old letters, five-shilling pieces, dried herbs, school reports, table centres, jam, used electric light bulbs, dessert cutlery, and so forth, besides every kind of storable food. The elderly ones, whose youth goes back to the old conditions of country life, judge a house more by the capacity of its store cupboards and cellars than by the convenience of its bathroom.

You remember the flour bin and the fitches of bacon, the apple floor, the tea chest, and the linen presses at "The Priory." There was not the slightest necessity for all these accumulations. They were not home-grown things, and the tradesmen who supplied them called every week for orders.

They merely represented your aunt's inherited instinct for storing. It was not anything to deride or discourage. It was not greed or peevishness. It was good economy and careful, prudent, frugal housekeeping, and was as saving of time and trouble as of money. All women have a touch of this instinct, and it is because there is a female ruler in the hive that bees hoard honey.

The wretched, paltry hand-to-mouth conditions of life that have come with weekly wage industrialism have stifled it more or less, but it still exists, and our present situation shows what a good instinct it was. When you come to think of it, your kind offer of a parcel of trench comforts for the old folks at home would have had no point, and the food problem would have presented no difficulty if food hoarding had been encouraged in the early days of the war.

The products of the whole fertile world were pouring into England. The submarine danger threatened but could do very little present harm. There was no shortage of anything; in fact there was greater superabundance than ever. So-day we see the measure of the late Government's folly in the fact that their failure to encourage what was a virtue two years ago has caused the same thing to be denounced now as a crime. Food hoarding, which is now the meanest form of individual greed, would have enabled us to defy the submarine if the Asquith lot had only perceived it. And the saddest part of it all is that the high-minded, noble, white-souled women of spotless record are now being forced by inherited instinct into crime without knowing it.

I name no names, lest the Censor should read this letter and pass it on to the police. But a certain lady whom I have known and esteemed for years has contrived—how I know not—to obtain a smuggle into her house half a hundredweight of sugar. And a certain young lady, who has hitherto borne an irreproachable character, has yielded to temptation and turned her wardrobe into a warehouse for a store of six one-pound tins of somebody's "Ideal" toffee.

Send the tin of biscuits if you will—sweet ones preferred—and I will save them up for a rainy day. But they will not be so welcome as your postcard this morning. Write as soon as you can. All our love.—Your affectionate

FATHER.

unmolested. About 30 members of the colony have undergone periods of internment in land "reprisals" by the Turkish Government for alleged bombardments of undefended towns by British and French aviators. All British subjects in Constantinople must be at home before nine o'clock in the evenings. About half a dozen members of the colony are at present "interned" in a house in Constantinople. Their imprisonment, also described as a "reprisal," is a formal one, and they suffer no privations. The American Embassy at Constantinople looks after the interests of the British colony very thoroughly. The American Ambassador is on excellent terms with the Turkish authorities, and his tactful intervention often prevents internments.

Quite recently the Turks, at the instigation of the Germans, decided to intern inland the British Nonconformist minister—the most popular European in Constantinople. The minister was seized, conveyed across the Bosphorus, and was on his way to an Asiatic Minor concentration camp when the American Ambassador heard of the case. Instead of protesting indignantly, the Ambassador quietly expressed regret that the authorities should treat a man harshly who had devoted a large part of his life to the good of the Turkish population. Enver Pasha at once realized the force of the Ambassador's view, and a courier despatched hot haste instructed the guards to return to Constantinople with the Nonconformist minister.

The mental strain which the British undergo at Constantinople is very great, and men who two years back were hale and strong now creep about the streets mere shadows.

AIR POWER.

LONDON TO PETROGRAD IN EIGHT HOURS.

The public, remarks a London paper, has been waiting for a standard work on aviation, and Messrs. C. Grahame-White and Harry Harper have supplied it. The volume to which these two experts have put their names has the advantage, rare in books of this character, of expounding a complex subject, interlarded with technicalities, in a manner at once clear and enlightening to the non-flying citizen. It is much more than the record of astupendous evolution precipitated by the war, or a comprehensive survey of factors, great and small, which in the short space of two years have built up a new and powerful fighting arm.

The authors, observing the changing world from their position aloft, see further than the man on the ground. Their section on "future" events is intensely suggestive. To the ordinary war-jaded, bread-restricted inhabitant of these islands the bald statement that "a man will in the future be able to dine one evening in New York, and the next in London," or, *vice-versa*, sounds incredible; yet Messrs. Grahame-White and Harper apparently regard such a journey as the early and normal development of aerial progress.

By the use of amphibious machines on the Transatlantic service—machines capable of alighting either on the sea or land—an aircraft which leaves New York with its passengers and mails will fly right on to within a few miles of London, alighting at some aerodrome on the outskirts of the city. This will obviate the delay which takes place to-day when a liner puts in to Liverpool or Southampton and tranships its passengers and mails to a train, in which they are borne to London. Travellers in the future will enter an aircraft at New York, and not get out of it again until they reach London, or *vice-versa*.

And we are promised a tranquil night, without any oscillation or swaying on the part of the machine! Economically a Transatlantic aircraft will have, it is pointed out, a great pull over the liner. Passengers will only require to be fed for twenty or thirty hours, instead of a week; it will not be necessary for an aircraft to lie idle in port for a week while it is taking on board stores for a thousand or more people; this new bird of passage will be able to cross several times while the liner can only cross once. Consider, too, the questions of much smaller crew, automatic engines which do not require stokers, and other economies.

EUROPEAN HIGHWAYS.

It is scarcely surprising to read that European airways will make it practicable for the business man to leave his office at noon and take tea in Nice, that a non-stop journey to Petrograd will only take eight or ten hours, and that communication between London and Paris will probably be as easy and frequent as communication between London and Brighton. "Even with trains passing under the Channel," it is hinted, "the journey will not be possible at anything like the speed attained by air."

These are only a few of the anticipated results of air-power which the authors discuss in their chapters devoted to the commercial era of flight. The pages which describe and annotate the feats of aircraft activity performed in the present war will be read with absorbing interest. They are written with all the authority and frankness of inside knowledge, and constitute a remarkable commentary on the one phase of our vast operations which has never been stagnant. Aircraft as machines for reconnaissance were on their trial in the early months of the war, but though they may have suffered from a lack of numbers and effective organisation, their value was quickly established. When its use had been systematised by experience, the scout soon became an armed scout, and then, by natural evolution, a destructive force of supreme value. What has the great "war in the air" revealed? First, that the superiority of our airmen over the German airman is human rather than mechanical. The temperament of the Briton, which has sent him adventuring through the world for centuries, has proved almost ideal for flying. In peace or war, the Briton flies with a personal and sporting zest almost unknown to the German who flies, generally speaking, in a spirit of duty.

The young Englishman flies an aeroplane as he would ride a horse to hounds or in a speedboat or sail a yacht in a freshening wind. It is a sport to him, an adventure; something to be enjoyed rather than to be done as a duty. And it is this spirit, allied to his temperamental advantages—to the caution and judgment that leaven his daring, which render him invincible in the air, as he has been for centuries on the sea.

So much for the Briton's innate qualities. But temperament is not everything in air fighting. Material is an enormously important factor, and it was here, after our ground organisation and personnel had been improved in 1916, that the greatest lesson was learnt. The value of the machine which could combine successfully the attributes of speed and striking power was recognised. The naval ideal, which affect a compromise between the necessity for speed and the importance of armament that does not unduly retard speed, became the aerial ideal. How the many and diverse problems in construction were faced and conquered is set out clearly and succinctly. The lay reader finds himself marveling at the patience, ingenuity, and enterprise shown.

We have already mentioned that Messrs. Grahame-White and Harper do not limit their studies to war conditions, nor are they content to speculate vaguely on the development of air power when peace is restored. Their able work is a popular treatise on every shade and aspect of a revolutionising element in our social and national life. Even if the aesthetic mind cannot profess any enthusiasm for the prospect which looms ahead, the practical mind must admit that fundamental changes are coming, and that there is imperative need for a re-orientation of our grasp of the character and their purpose.

"ASAHI BEER."

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	Capt. Higo	July, at 11 A.M.

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	Capt. Tomimaga	July, at 11 A.M.
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	Capt. Takano	July, at 11 A.M.

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